

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 27

2 49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 RELATING TO THE RECOGNITION OF A CONNECTION BETWEEN DOMESTIC
12 VIOLENCE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY AND DECLARING FEBRUARY 10, 2010 TO
13 BE "NEW MEXICO LINK AWARENESS DAY" IN THE LEGISLATURE.

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15 WHEREAS, scientific literature has recognized a
16 connection between domestic violence and animal cruelty
17 for more than a decade and commonly refers to this connection
18 as "the link"; and

19 WHEREAS, an acknowledged association exists between acts
20 of cruelty to animals in childhood and serious, recurrent
21 aggression against people as an adult with the most aggressive
22 adult criminals having committed the more severe acts of animal
23 cruelty as children; and

24 WHEREAS, compared to "next-door neighbor types", men
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1 prosecuted for animal abuse were five times more likely to
2 commit violent crimes, four times more likely to commit
3 property crimes and three times more likely to have a law
4 enforcement record for drug or disorderly conduct offenses; and

5 WHEREAS, national and state studies have determined that
6 from fifty-four percent to seventy-one percent of women seeking
7 shelter reported that their partners had threatened, injured or
8 killed one or more family pets; and

9 WHEREAS, women often reported a delay in leaving dangerous
10 situations because of fear for the safety of their companion
11 animals; and

12 WHEREAS, research shows that a batterer's motivations for
13 abusing women and animals are the same: power and control; and

14 WHEREAS, animal abuse is a "red flag" for sociopathology
15 or psychopathology; in fact, one study found that four and
16 seven-tenths percent of "normal" children acknowledged animal
17 abuse, compared to thirteen percent who were sexually abused,
18 twenty-four and one-half percent who were physically abused and
19 thirty-four percent who were both physically and sexually
20 abused; and

21 WHEREAS, children who witness violence are at greater risk
22 of becoming abusers or victims, and twenty-six to thirty-six
23 percent of children in abusive families are cruel to animals;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, preventive strategies include humane education

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1 programs; cross-training among professionals working in the
2 fields of domestic violence, law enforcement and animal
3 control; raising animal welfare standards and strengthening
4 anticruelty laws; being aware and getting to know and look out
5 for the animals in one's neighborhood; learning to recognize
6 animal cruelty; promoting a society that values and respects
7 all living beings; and supporting, by volunteering for and
8 donating to, local shelters for battered women and children and
9 animal shelters; and

10 WHEREAS, the department of public safety in 2004 sponsored
11 the first governor's conference on "the link" between animal
12 cruelty and human violence with funding appropriated by the
13 legislature and approved by the governor; and

14 WHEREAS, the lieutenant governor in 2006 addressed the
15 third "link" conference with a keynote speech about violence to
16 children and animals; and

17 WHEREAS, the department of public safety in 2009 sponsored
18 the sixth "link" conference; and

19 WHEREAS, individuals from the fields of animal control,
20 domestic violence and law enforcement attended the conference
21 to learn more about the issues, to share information and to
22 develop mechanisms for addressing the issues associated with
23 "the link"; and

24 WHEREAS, at the 2009 conference, a group of individuals
25 who attended formed a steering committee to further the work of

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1 the conference throughout the period between the yearly
2 conferences; and

3 WHEREAS, the steering committee has begun making
4 presentations to audiences across the state to make them aware
5 of "the link"; and

6 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature recognizes that "the
7 link" is an important issue for the people of the state to
8 become aware of and address; and

9 WHEREAS, the legislature, as well as individual
10 legislators, wish to make the public and their own communities
11 aware of "the link";

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 10, 2010 be proclaimed "New
14 Mexico Link Awareness Day" at the New Mexico legislature to
15 honor and remember all of the human and animal victims of
16 domestic violence and animal cruelty and to increase awareness
17 of "the link" between domestic violence and animal cruelty.